

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00
CU-02 DOTE-00 L-03 OES-07 DHA-02 INT-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W
-----005140 111423Z /46

R 111156Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: IR, IZ, ETRD
SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED

1. INTERIOR MINISTER AND REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER
EZZAT IBRAHIM AL-DOWRI LED A 36-MEMBER IRAQI DELEGATION
DURING A RECENT SIX DAY (JULY 4-9) VISIT TO IRAN FOR THE
FIRST ROUND OF ECONOMIC DELIBERATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES IN ALMOST TEN YEARS. THE IRAQI DELEGATION TO THE
JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION MEETINGS INCLUDED TRADE MINISTER
HASAN ALI AND A NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES.
THE IRANIAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY
AND INCLUDED COMMERCE MINISTER TASLIMI, INTERIOR MINISTER
MOINI, AND ARTS AND CULTURE MINISTER PAHLBOD.
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2. DURING THE VISIT AL-DOWRI WAS RECEIVED BY THE SHAH TO
WHOM HE PRESENTED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AL-BAKR AND HE
ALSO HELD TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. ACCORDING
TO MFA FIRST POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (ARAB STATES) SOURCE,
THESE INTERVIEWS RANGED BEYOND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL TOPICS
AND ENCOMPASSED MUTUAL POLITICAL CONCERNS SUCH AS PERSIAN

GULF SECURITY.

3. A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BILATERAL MEETINGS ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS "IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING". THESE AGREEMENTS INVOLVE BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF TOURISM, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, CULTURE AND RAILROAD COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION, A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED COMMERCIAL AND TRANSIT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A SEPARATE AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION WAS SIGNED BY THE TWO MINISTERS OF INTERIOR WHICH REPORTEDLY PROVIDES FOR COOPERATION, AT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEVEL, IN BORDER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING KURDISH AFFAIRS. (AN EXTRADITION TREATY WAS DISCUSSED BUT AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED DURING THIS ROUND OF MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE.)

4. MFA SOURCE, WHO PARTICIPATED IN SOME TECHNICAL SUB-COMMISSION MEETINGS, DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANY OF THE ABOVE CITED AGREEMENTS WILL COME INTO FORCE "IN THE NEAR FUTURE". IN THE CASE OF THE COMMERCIAL AND TRANSIT LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING, HE EXPECTS QUICKER IMPLEMENTATION SINCE IRAN IS SEEKING AN ALTERNATIVE TRADE ROUTE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN TO SUPPLEMENT OVERLAND TRANSIT THROUGH TURKEY AND AZARBAIJAN.
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5. WHILE FINAL TEXTS OF AGREEMENTS NOT YET AVAILABLE, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED PROVISIONS IN GENERAL COVER TECHNICAL DETAILS SUCH AS CONSERVATION AND ACCESS TO RELIGIOUS SHRINES, POTENTIAL (BUT NOT DEFINED) RAIL LINK BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, COOPERATION IN WATER CONSERVATION ALONG THE BORDER, AND EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED ON MORE STICKY QUESTIONS SUCH AS MINORITY EDUCATION RIGHTS OR TRANSIT PRIVILEGES FOR RELIGIOUS PILGRIMS. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 1978 IN BAGHDAD AT WHICH TIME PROGRESS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED AND NEW ONES FORMULATED.

6. COMMENT: IRAQI VISIT RECEIVED USUAL FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN LOCAL PRESS WITH EDITORIAL COMMENT IN TEHRAN JOURNAL STRESSING THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR JOINT COOPERATION TO "SERVE EQUALLY THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES". THESE AGREEMENTS ARE THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ECONOMIC PACTS WHICH IRAQ HAS SIGNED RECENTLY WITH PERSIAN GULF STATES. THE AL-DOWRI VISIT CULMINATES A TWO YEAR PERIOD OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND

IRAQ, FOLLOWING THE ALGIERS ACCORD, AND IS CLEARLY A STEP
IN THE DIRECTION OF CLOSER BILATERAL COOPERATION. ALTHOUGH
POLITICAL QUESTIONS OF A SECURITY NATURE WERE NOT ON THE
COMMISSION AGENDA, MFA SOURCE REMARKED THAT IRAQI LEADERS
INCLUDING AL-DOWRI APPEARED "MUCH MORE MATURE POLITICALLY"
THAN IN THE PAST. HE CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS A SUCCESS
FROM GOI VIEWPOINT. ON THE IRAQI SIDE, AL-DOWRI, UPON
HIS RETURN TO BAGHDAD, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS
OF HIS VISIT TO IRAN.
SULLIVAN

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Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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